

Entered at the Postoffice at Accomac, C. H., Va., as second-class matter.

The Virginia Episcopal Council in session in Petersburg, last week, referred the question of a division of the diocese to a committee to report next year. The next session will be held in Danville.

The Supreme court of the United States has decided, that the Virginia law requiring inspection, for which fees were charged, of flour manufactured outside the State when sold within the State, to be contrary to the Federal constitution.

The election in Accomac, Thursday, was very quiet and a small vote was polled throughout the county. The Democrats of the county evidently considered they had done their duty in making their nominations and with a confidence in their strength, often fruitful of evil, stayed at home. They may yet learn wisdom by a surprise on the part of the Republicans, and thereby be taught, that it is better to practice that discretion which is the better part of valor.

Judge L. C. Houk, Republican Congressman, from the second district of Tennessee, died Monday, at his home in Knoxville. On Sunday, he went to a drug store and had a prescription filled, but accidentally swallowed a strong solution of arsenic instead. Antidotes were promptly administered, and he apparently recovered and slept through the night. He expired suddenly of heart disease, on the following morning, superinduced by the poison and excitement.

General Gordon, commander of the United Confederate Veterans, calls upon the ladies of the South, in his proclamation on the subject of the proposed monument to ex-President Davis, to assist in the noble work, and he might have added that without their assistance, the project might as well be abandoned or be looked forward to in its fulfillment at a period too remote to be calculated with any degree of accuracy by anyone, unless endowed with prophetic vision. It is due to their gentle hearts and patriotic impulses that Memorial Day is observed—to them the credit for the success of the Lee monument principally belongs—all efforts of similar character, in fact have been successful because they put their shoulders to the wheel and they must do so now, if we are to have a monument soon worthy of our deceased chieftain.

The absence of Southern delegates in the recent third-party convention at Cincinnati is accounted for by the Philadelphia Record, for the reasons given in article published below, and it occurs to us as such a sensible view of the situation, that we publish it for the benefit of our readers:

Observers in Cincinnati are struck with the slight attendance of Southern delegates to the third party convention. The reasons for this are not far to seek. The Southern farmers see in this movement a menace to the harmony that prevails among them upon vital political questions, especially in regard to tariff reform. They have experienced something of this already in South Carolina and Georgia. In the South a third party would naturally become a rival of the Democrats and an ally of the Republicans. The Southern farmers have no grievance against the Democratic party, and hence they look with disgust upon anything that threatens to divide it. A divided Democratic party to them would mean obstruction and delay of tariff reform in Congress, and danger to the orderly administration of their local affairs. The Farmers' Alliance movement in the West, on the other hand, is a revolt against the monopolistic tendencies of the Republican party and above all, against its latest exploitation of the many for the benefit of the few—the McKinley tariff. This is what accounts for the throng of Kansas farmers in Cincinnati, and for the meagre attendance of farmers from Kentucky. The new political organization of Western farmers is a manifestation of their profound discontent with the legislation of the Republican party. A similar movement of Southern farmers against the Democratic party would be illogical and absurd not merely, but fraught with mischief. It is a strong political instinct, therefore, which has kept the intelligent farmers of the South from the Cincinnati Convention.

VIRGINIA AFFAIRS.

The State Debt Commission to Meet Next Week.

RICHMOND, Va., May 25.—It is now settled that the Virginia debt commission will meet here early next week, probably Monday. Members of the Olcott debt committee, the Governor says, are expected to arrive here Tuesday or Wednesday, of next week. How many of these will come Governor McKinney says he is not now advised. Those who come will appear before the commission and present their plan of settlement. Just what this is, is not definitely known. It is believed to be with some modifications, the one agreed on by the Olcott committee and approved by Mr. Cleveland's board, which was published in full some months ago. The changes, it is believed, were suggested by the bondholders to Mr. Ellis, the secretary of the New York Central Trust Company, on the occasion of his recent visit to London. When a reporter asked the Governor this afternoon what will be the outcome of the meeting of the commission next week, he replied: "You newspaper men know just as well as I do, if not better. I haven't any idea." The big bone of contention is going to be over the question of accepting the sum of about six million dollars of coupons outlawed under the Wickham amendment. Then, too, the length of time it is believed it will be proposed that the bonds shall run may be another obstacle.

THE ALLIANCE AND THE LEGISLATURE.

It is now reasonably certain that the alliance people intend to make a determined fight this fall for members of the Legislature. The most influential leaders of that order express the belief that their fight will, as far as practicable, be conducted within the Democratic party. There is no sort of disposition manifested by any of these gentlemen to take any action which may create discord within the ranks of the party to which a great majority of their members owe allegiance.

Of course there are office-seekers among the alliance leaders of Virginia, but the great mass of the members of the order aim only to secure the enactment by the Legislature of certain laws which by them are deemed essential to the prosperity of their class. If they can accomplish these objects they will rest satisfied. There was a desire manifested by some few that the organization should make a contest for the local offices this spring. This, however, was not encouraged by the leaders or conservative members. The Virginia farmers are among the most conservative people in the country. They are always opposed to adopting measures that have in them anything like radicalism. The farmers believe that in the matter of freight traffic the railroads in this State have for a long time past shown unjust discrimination against them in favor of the larger markets of the country. It is the hope of remedying this injustice that the enactment of a railroad commission law is demanded. With such protection as they believe that law would afford, the farmers hope to be able to bring about more liberal charges for local freight.

OPPOSED TO LEASING THE OYSTERS.

TER BEDS. The idea of increasing the State's revenue by leasing out to capitalists her valuable oyster grounds has been thrown out by well-informed financiers. If this plan were pursued, it would be estimated that it would annually yield enough revenue to pay the interest on the State debt. The plan is not likely to be carried out. If there were no other obstacle in the way, the constitution stands in its path. Col. McDonald, the United States fish commissioner, who has given a great deal of attention and consideration of the oyster industry, was asked what he thought of this scheme. His reply was: "As a citizen of Virginia I should oppose strenuously the leasing of large tracts of the bottom to any syndicate, whether domestic or foreign capital, unless the areas thus leased should be so located as not to include any portion of the bay or its tributaries which now naturally produce oysters, and to which our citizens, and more particularly the tongsers, are now accustomed to resort as a means of livelihood. The policy of the State should be, first of all, to define, mark out and reserve for public use all those portions of the Chesapeake which are now producing oysters in sufficient number to furnish a motive for tongsing or dredging. Having done that, the rest of the bottoms under water could be leased or sold, the State limiting the areas to be held under terms of lease or sale by corporations or individuals. Under such a policy full and reasonable protection would be given to the industry as it is now pursued, and such encouragement to the investment of individual or corporate capital as would vastly extend the oyster production of the waters, a result which would certainly be in the general interest of the State, and a policy which would accomplish it should commend itself, I think, to all good citizens."—Baltimore Sun.

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